

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00607 061107Z  
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6761  
INFO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
COMIDEASTFOR  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0607

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS PINT PFOR SE MP  
SUBJECT: MAURITIAN REACTION TO SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT

1. IN COURSE OF SEEING OFF PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AND HIS DELEGATION AT AIRPORT EVENING JUNE 5 ON THEIR DEPARTURE TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, I WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED ABOUT DAY'S EVENTS IN SYECHELLES BY RAMGOOLAM AS WELL AS MINISTERS RINGADOO (FINANCE) AND GHURBURRUN (PLANNING), POLITICAL CONFIDANT BURRENCHOBAY (ALL MEMBERS OF DEPARTING DELEGATION) PLUS BOOLELL (AGRICULTURE), WHO WILL BE ACTING P.M., AND POLICE COMMISSIONER FULENA AND BRITISH SECURITY ADVISER REWCASTLE (LATTER TWO LOOKING ESPECIALLY WORRIED). THEY HAD PRACTICALLY NO INFORMATION ON SYECHELLES COUP. HAVING ARRIVED FROM SEYCHELLES THREE HOURS EARLIER, I PASSED ON WHAT I KNEW FROM RADIO BROADCASTS HEARD IN SYECHELLES DURING MORNING AND  
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PAGE 02 PORT L 00607 061107Z

CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARGE MATTSON, PLUS PUBLIC DOMAIN PORTIONS OF VICTORIA 295, 297 AND 298.

2. RAMGOOLAM'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO CONSIDER POSTPONING HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON, BUT HE WAS QUICKLY DISSUADED BY HIS COLLEAGUES. HIS SECOND WAS TO STATE THAT THE BRITISH "OUTHT TO INTERVENE" ON MANCHAM'S BEHALF, AS THE SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTION

HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN VIOLATED. ALL OF THE MAURITIANS WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE HAD BEEN "FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT" (BY WHICH THEY MEANT RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT). SEVERAL REMARKED THAT RENE, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE, HAD MENTIONED SOME OF THE SAME CRITICISMS OF MANCHAM USED IN COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST BY COUP PERPETRATORS (E.G., MANCHAM SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME IN EUROPE, WASTES MONEY, IS TOO COSY WITH FOREIGNERS). RINGADOO SAID HE HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED MANCHAM TO BE A "CLEVER BOY" BUT IT APPEARED THAT RENE WAS EVEN MORE CLEVER.

3. REWCASTLE WAS SURPRISED THAT BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS HAD "BEEN OF NO USE" AND HE WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO "SPECIAL POLICE FORCE" THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MANCHAM'S PERSONAL BODY GUARD. (I SUGGESTED THEY MAY HAVE BEEN LESS THAN ALERT, WITH THEIR CHARGE ABSENT IN LONDON.) REWCASTLE REMARKED TO RAMGOOLAM (WITH A TINGE OF PROFESSIONAL SARCASM) THAT HEAD OF SYECHELLES SPECIAL BRANCH HAD RECENTLY VISITED HERE AND HAD DISCOUNTED REPORTS THAT THERE WAS POLITICAL UNREST IN SYECHELLES.

4. PMSD LEADER GAETAN DUVAL, WHO WAS DEPARTING FOR VACATION ON SAME PLANE, HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT ANTI-MANCHAM COUP. HIS COMMENT WAS: "MANCHAM INDULGED IN TOO MUCH PLAYBOY STUFF." (THIS IS WHAT MANY PEOPLE SAY ABOUT DUVAL.) HE SUGGESTED, MORE OR LESS IN JEST, THAT U.S. MARINES BE SENT IN TO RESTORE MANCHAM TO POWER.

5. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIS SOURCE, ONE MINISTER PRESENT AT AIRPORT SAID HIS INFORMATION WAS COUP HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON RENE'S BEHALF BY THE SEYCHELLES POLICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PORT L 00607 061107Z

6. COMMENT: MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP SEEMED VERY WORRIED ABOUT SYECHELLES DEVELOPMENTS, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE FRIENDLY TO MANCHAM BUT EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE THEY FEAR A SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT HERE, THOUGH THEY PROBABLY DOUBT THEY ARE AS VULNERABLE. POLITICAL SITUATIONS ARE OF COURSE DISSIMILAR. LEADER OF OPPOSITION, FOR EXAMPLE, IS MEMBER OF RAMGOOLAM'S DELEGATION TO LONDON, AND MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) LEADER BERENGER, WHO WAS ALSO AT AIRPORT, IS APPARENTLY PLANNING TO GO TO LONDON ON HIS OWN TODAY. I ASKED REWCASTLE AND FULENA IF THEY HAVE RELIABLE GUARDS POSTED AT RADIO/TV STUDIOS, TRANSMITTERS, POWER STATIONS, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ARMORIES, CENTRAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, AND SO FORTH, AND THEY SAID THEY HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL NOW TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO ASSURE THAT LOYAL POLICE ARE ON DUTY AT ALL KEY POINTS AND THEY WILL NOT SLEEP PEACEFULLY FOR A WHILE. SYECHELLES COUP SHOULD REINFORCE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT LOYALTY OF ITS POLICE FORCE, WHICH IS KNOW

TO CONTAIN MANY SYMPATHIZERS OF THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION MMM.  
EASE WITH WHICH PRO-RENE COUP WAS CARRIED OUT IN SEYCHELLES  
PROVIDES THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GOM SECURITY A WARNING THAT  
ANTI-COUP CONTINGENCY PLANS NEED TO BE IMPROVED HERE. END  
COMMENT.  
KEELEY

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## Message Attributes

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